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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY East GermanyREPORT NO. TOPIC Military Information from SaalfeldEVALUATION 25X1XPLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT 26 August to 12 September 1953DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 1 October 1953REFERENCES 25X1APAGES 1 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) REMARKS SOURCE 25X1X

On 12 September 1953, The Prinz Louis Ferdinand Kaserne in Saalfeld was occupied by an estimated 500 to 600 troops. About 65 percent of the windows of the installation were lighted after nightfall. Between 26 August and 12 September, groups of 10 to 15 young soldiers, some of whom carried baggage, frequently were observed arriving at Saalfeld aboard regular passenger trains. They subsequently marched to the installation. During the period under review, an average of 100 to 150 troops were daily seen receiving instruction in the installation and 200 to 250 troops were seen receiving field training, including entrenching work, attack, defense, and camouflage. On 26 August, 10 trucks were seen at cross-country driving. A total of 14 watchtowers were erected in the training area along the Aue am Berg-Unterwirthbach road, about 70 meters apart. Field fortifications, 1 to 1.5 meters deep were being built between the towers. Vehicular traffic had considerably increased during the period under review.

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Comment. The units permanently stationed at the installation cannot be confirmed there by information contained in the present report. Reports on transportation tended to indicate that the bulk of the 316th RL Regt (US) of the XXVIII Gds Mtz Rifle Corps, as in preceding years, was in the Ohrdruf area. The occupation strength of the installation given in this report, however, roughly corresponds to the strength of the 45th Gds Engr Bn of the 39th Gds Mtz Rifle Div. The battalion returned from Dessau on two trains on 4 July and on 20 July, received engineer equipment from the engineer camp of the GOFG in Ketschendorf.

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